

United States Department of Agriculture



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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-4-43

SUBJECT: LTP - CSP SELF ASSESSMENT WORKBOOK

Purpose: To distribute copies of this workbook to all field offices in Minnesota

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004. Retain workbook for future reference.

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is one of the new programs authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill. It is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote conservation on Tribal and private working lands. This program is administered on the 8 digit HUC watershed level, with sign ups being held in a number of watersheds each year. Current plans call for all watersheds in the U.S. to hold a sign up at least once within the next eight years.

The amount of technical assistance available from NRCS is limited, so the self assessment workbook is a new tool being used with this program, for producers to use to begin the eligibility determination process. These workbooks will be an important part of the application process for the program. They will help producers document their stewardship work and prepare a benchmark inventory documenting conservation treatments they have undertaken so far.

They are also a good planning tool that can be used to help producers identify resource concerns on their ag operation, and encourage them to sign up for existing programs like EQIP, WHIP, etc. so they will be able to meet the basic eligibility requirements for CSP in the future.

One copy of this workbook is being sent to each field office. It is also available on line on the NRCS national CSP page at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>. Additional workbooks will be supplied to the watersheds selected to hold sign ups each year.

/s/

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